

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	PAGE 7 OF 21 PAGES	
7050 A.I.S. WING	141628-D-55-3216 B		
PLACE	WAC NO.	FN	EVAL IN CODE NO.
HALLE	231		F-0
POLITICAL LOCATION	DESCRIPTIVE NAME OF REPORT		
SZG	Imprisonment of US Air Force Crew Members in HALLE		
SOVIET ECON. REGION	PROPER NAME	IMENI	DATES OF INFORMATION
			FROM Sep 1950 to Sep 1951

I. PREAMBLE: SOURCE was interned in prison in HALLE (51.29N 11.59E) from Sep 1950 to Sep 1951. He obtained the information contained in this report by his own observations and from hearsay of fellow prisoners. The informations among the prisoners were exchanged by knocking on the partitions of the cells, since all talking was restricted during the short intervals the prisoners saw each other. SOURCE mentioned that a certain Karl-Heinz GROMOLL, a fellow prisoner, probably had better and more detailed information about this subject since he worked for the prison kitchen. GROMOLL probably lives in the Western Zone of GERMANY. SOURCE knew that he had an unmarried sister in GIESSEN (50.35N 08.39E) who worked for the US Forces. He named two other prisoners of the detention prison in HALLE who may also have additional information about this subject. These were Horst POEHLER and Ekkehard KIELHOLZ. Both live in the Western Zone according to SOURCE.

II. ACCOUNT OF IMPRISONED AMERICANS.

SOURCE was arrested in Sep 1950 and transported to HALLE. Here, he was interned in the detention prison located at KIRCHTORSTRASSE 13. In the middle of Oct 1950 he was notified by fellow prisoners of adjacent cells through knocking signs that 5 American citizens, members of the US Air Force, were kept in the so-called "A BLOCK" (Point F, Inclosure # 2, Report # A). It was told that these flyers were here since summer 1950. It was said that they were forced down by Russian fighters near MERSEBURG (51.22N 12.00E) and that their twin engine transport aircraft was loaded with material for agents working in the SZG for the US. He was told that the aircraft was said to have photographic material abroad and that the home base was located somewhere in Western EUROPE. SOURCE did not hear rumors whether this aircraft was destroyed by the crew members after their landing or whether the SOVIETS captured it. SOURCE observed the 5 crew members at the first time in Dec 1950 when they were in the "Roundwalk" (Point K, Inclosure # 2, Report # A) at noontime. He saw them from his prison cell window of the "BD BLOCK" (Point N, Inclosure # 2, Report # A). The second time SOURCE saw them was on 10 or 12 May 1951. After this date he was able to observe these men at regular intervals of 3 weeks. SOURCE stated that 1 or 2 of the 5 men were missing at the noon walk on a few occasions. None of them were fettered or handcuffed. They were guarded by 2 Russian guards who were armed with automatic pistols. SOURCE observed that they were not permitted to talk during this walk. Some guards were somewhat negligent and did not order them to be quiet, but prevented anything above whisper. SOURCE was not able to understand what was said, but distinguished that they talked in a foreign language. Once he was able to hear one calling "JOHN" or "JOHNNY" to one of the men described under "3" below. SOURCE stated that all of them were shaven and that none of them wore glasses. They were dressed in blue Air Force uniforms with one exception which is mentioned under the personal description below. SOURCE stated that all of them seemed to be in good health and he had the impression that they were treated better than the other prisoners. SOURCE saw them for the last time in Aug 1951 shortly before he was transferred to another prison. He described these five AMERICANS as follows:

1) He was approximately 1.80 m tall, 32 to 33 years of age, slender, but strongly built. He had blond hair, parted on the left side. His face was long and slender. SOURCE observed that he had 2 silver bars on either shoulder and believed that he was a captain. He had some medals on the left side of his jacket above the side pocket. He had no cap.

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2) He was about 1.80 m tall, 28 to 29 years of age, slender, but strongly built. His hair was blond and curled and was combed back. His face was oval. He had brown shoes to his blue uniform and did not have a cap. SOURCE did not recall any insignia, medals or any sign of rank on his uniform.

3) He was about 1.80 m tall, 25 to 26 years of age, slender bodied and had a slender long face. He had dark brown hair which was combed back. SOURCE stated that he wore a brown leather jacket, blue Air Force trousers and black shoes. SOURCE did not recognize any insignia, medals or any sign of his rank on the uniform.

4) He was about 1.65 m tall, approximately 28 years old, strong and square built. He had dark blond hair which was parted in the middle of the head. He wore fur lined airman's boots to his blue uniform. He had no hat or cap. SOURCE stated that he had some medals on the left side of his jacket above the side pocket. SOURCE did not observe any rank.

5) He was about 1.60 m tall and 25 years of age. He had a slender figure rather weakly built. He had a long face with a rather sharp pointed chin. His hair was black and combed back. SOURCE recalled that he had some rank insignia on either sleeve of his blue uniform jacket.

SOURCE stated that he was once ordered to clean the "A BLOCK" (Point F, Inclosure # 2, Report # A) in which these 5 airmen were interned. He entered the building on the 25 or 27 Aug 1951 at noontime when the prisoners were in the yard for their daily walk. SOURCE was heavily guarded by Russian soldiers armed with automatic pistols, during this work. The cell number where these 5 airmen were kept had the number 96 or 97 in the "A BLOCK" (Point F, Inclosure # 2, Report # A). SOURCE observed that American newspapers out to chess figures were on the table. He furthermore observed several slices of bread which was rather unusual since all other prisoners were short of bread. SOURCE also observed scratchings in the door on the wall, but was unable to recall any details about it. SOURCE did not see any clothing in this cell. SOURCE believed that these 5 US Air Force soldiers were already indicted since they were permitted to stay together and see each other. It was common routine in this prison that all prisoners upon trial were separated as long as their inquiry was still pending. It also was generally known that all prisoners of the "A BLOCK" (Point F, Inclosure # 2, Report # A) were either foreigners or German nationals accused of espionage or similar charges. SOURCE stated that most of the prisoners were said to be transported to some part of SIBERIA in the USSR after they passed trial.

Robert C. Miller

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Major, USAF
Commanding
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No Inclosure.

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